



ROYAL BURGH OF ST. ANDREWS.

REPORTS

BY

Medical Officer

AND

Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1931.



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To the Department of Health for Scotland, The Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of the Royal Burgh of St. Andrews.

Gentlemen,

In submitting my Report on the Health of the Burgh of St. Andrews for the year 1931, I gladly avail myself of an opportunity of expressing my indebtedness to all those associated with me in the health activities of the Burgh. In particular do I desire to acknowledge the advice and help given me by Dr. G. Pratt Yule, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Fife County.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. MATTHEW FYFE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer.

April, 1932.

Public Health Department,
County Buildings.
Cupar, Fife.

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1931.

INTRODUCTORY.

A favourable environment is necessary for the full development of the high qualities which are conferred by inheritance upon a race or individual. Recognition of this fact as applied to mankind has been the force which has inspired the amazing advances in sanitary science of the past half century. Biological research has led to the effective control of many infectious diseases, to the purification of water supplies, to the conservation of drainage, to the improvement of housing and to the protection of infant and maternal life, while industrial research has led to the betterment of working conditions. In short, all the ramifications of the public health organisation of the nation has been employed in removing from the path of the individual those external influences which actively threaten existence. The result has been an increase in the capacity and in the expectation of life of the individual. The following pages of this Report will show that St. Andrews Town Council have been alive to modern advances in sanitary science and have applied them for the benefit of the citizens.

Regard for the state of health of the community, however, is not a matter which is solely the concern of the Local Authority. Each individual is under an obligation to safeguard his health in the interests of himself and of his neighbours. Nevertheless, the vast majority of people are daily showing the utmost disregard for their welfare by the nature of the food they are consuming. The modern craze for attractive food has led to a serious lack of balance in the national diet thereby causing an alarmingly increased incidence in those common disorders of the respiratory and digestive tracts which are the chief causes of disability among the population. More than half the nation's food supply is manufactured and people are consuming too much sugar and starch and too little fresh food.

Evidence regarding the injurious nature of the nation's food supply is accumulating and St. Andrews is sharing in the work. The Medical Research Council's Report on "An Enquiry into the Diet of 154 families of St. Andrews" by Professor Cathcart and Mrs. A. M. T. Murray has shown an unexpected lack of balance in the food supply in the city. The work of Dr. J. Hunter P. Paton in the James Mackenzie Institute on the relation between the consumption of carbohydrates and common catarrhal disorders has provided clear indication of the evil effect attending the ill-balanced diet of to-day. The results of these investigations will be added to the volume of information which is being gathered in other parts of the country and it is hoped that before long there will occur a national awakening to the danger which menaces.

to be less evident, but the popular by-paths of the city were hardly ever free from contamination. During the year the number of dog licences issued was 503. The number of dogs kept in the town each year is remarkably constant.

Two criticisms can be levelled against the arrangements for the collection of refuse. The first refers to the continued disinclination of householders to provide themselves with covered bins and the second to the lack of care which is sometimes shown in emptying bins into the refuse collector with the result that dust is blown about, threatening passers-by and houses and food shops when doors and windows are open. Both are menaces to health which could be easily obviated by co-operation on the part of those concerned.

Water Supply.

Since the year 1926 when the attention of the Town Council was directed to the inadequacy of the precautions which were being taken to safeguard the water supply, a steady sequence of improvements have been effected at the water works with the result that, while in 1926 *bacillus coli communis*—an organism whose presence indicates pollution—was consistently present in less than 1 c.e. of water, at the end of 1931 it was regularly absent in even 100 c.e. of water.

The achievement reflects the greatest credit on the Town Council who have now provided for the town a water supply of more than ample quantity and of purest quality.

From Cameron Reservoir, which has a capacity of 222 million gallons, water is conducted by two mains (a new one having been laid down in 1931) to Upper Pipeland, at which station the work of purifying the water supply has been entirely concentrated, the old four filters at Lower Pipeland having been scrapped, along with the connection to Cairnsmill reservoir. The unfiltered water passes through a Control House, where it is screened, into four Primary Filters which remove heavy deposits. The water is then collected in a Balance Tank of 60,000 gallons capacity which ensures that the Secondary Filters receive a regular supply of water at even pressure. From the Balance Tank the water is drawn off into two small Control Wells from which it is distributed to twelve Secondary Filters for final removal of suspended matter. The purified water is then collected in four Clear Water Wells, two at Upper and two at Lower Pipeland. The total capacity of these wells is 560,000 gallons.

Among the accessory appliances which have been installed at the Works are two Venturimeters which record the amount of water passed to the town and two sandwashers of modern pattern.

All the secondary filters are covered with 24 inch layers of Arran sand, except three which will be similarly treated in due course.

So far as is known the system of water purification at St. Andrews is the most complete and up-to-date of its kind in the country. It is well worth a visit of inspection.

During the year the average consumption of water per head of population was 71.7 gallons. The figure is the highest ever recorded. The amount is extravagant and there is little doubt but that a great deal of wastage occurred either through running taps or through leakage in the main system. No harm was done, however, since the amount of water available is more than sufficient to meet even a considerably greater consumpt.

Atmospheric Conditions.

The new meteorological station at the Bruce Embankment operated satisfactorily throughout the year.

The sunniest month was May when there was 218.6 hours of bright sunshine. The total number of hours of bright sunshine for the year was 1376.8, the third highest number of hours recorded among the twenty-one stations in Scotland.

The warmest month was June and the coldest month was March.

The mean temperature for the whole year was 46.7 degrees F. a figure which gives an accurate indication of the average temperature maintained over the past ten years. It is of interest on this account to note that Dr. Rotherham, Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of St. Andrews, in 1807 "by a series of accurate observations found the medium temperature of the air at St. Andrews, during a period of seven years, to be 54 degrees of Farnheit." Many inhabitants will readily subscribe to the suggestion that the climate of St. Andrews has become colder during the past few decades.

The driest month was December and the wettest month was July. The total amount of rainfall for the year was 32.86 inches, 0.9 inches more than in 1930.

Ultra-violet light radiation continued to be recorded on the tower at Kinburn. The following are the average monthly readings, one unit being equal to twice the amount of ultra-violet light necessary to produce sunburn:—

Month.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Units.	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.8	3.0	1.8	1.3	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.1

The average amount of radiation for the year was 1.26 as compared with 1.98 in 1930.

Offensive Trades.

The unsatisfactory features of the arrangements for meat inspection which were discussed in the Report for 1930 were con-

sidered by the Town Council and the County Council were asked to take steps to improve matters. A conference was called between representatives of both bodies as a result of which the County Council agreed, as a temporary measure, to appoint Mr. Peter Young, Veterinary Surgeon, St. Andrews, Meat Inspector and Detention Officer. The new arrangement is an improvement upon that which followed the local government reform of 1930 since it permits of a much closer supervision of the meat supply.

The erection of a new slaughterhouse was decided upon by the Town Council and a site at Maryfield, outside the Burgh boundaries, was acquired. The premises are now in course of erection. The new slaughterhouse will contain lairage for cattle, sheep and pigs, a commodious pig slaughter hall, a slaughter hall in which twelve cattle can be dressed at one time, a meat-cooling chamber, a detention room, booths for tripe and gut cleaning and a hide store. The walls of the slaughter halls, the cooling chamber and the detention room will be tiled to a height of 8 feet.

The entire building will be fire-proof.

Stunning pens will be erected in the slaughter hall whereby stunned animals will be mechanically tipped on to the floor for dressing. The pig slaughter hall will be equipped with a highly-up-to-date pig trap and dressing appliances. Every precaution has been taken to secure humane methods in the process of killing. To facilitate the transference of carcasses, overhead tracks will lead from the slaughter halls to the cooling chamber and to the detention room.

There can be little doubt but that the new Public Abattoir will be one of the most modern and fully equipped of its kind.

The existing Bye-laws were issued in 1899 and will clearly not be sufficiently applicable to conditions in the new Abattoir. Accordingly, the Town Council prepared new Bye-laws of more comprehensive nature, and submitted them to the Department of Health for approval.

A satisfactory standard of cleanliness was maintained in the present slaughterhouse in spite of its structural defects. In the course of the year 3714 animals were slaughtered as compared with 3662 in 1930. 3163 pounds of meat and offal were seized as unfit for human consumption as compared with 2266 pounds in 1930.

The state of repair and the structure of the gut and tripe premises were considered to be so defective that the Town Council instructed that the business of preparing sausages and dripping be discontinued.

Housing Conditions.

An additional 56 municipal houses were erected during the year. These houses were built to meet demands on the part of applicants for new houses. Since 1920 the number of houses provided by the Local Authority has been as follows :—

Two-roomed houses,	..	..	..	..	103
Three-roomed houses,	..	..	..	..	160
Four-roomed houses,	..	..	..	..	87
Five-roomed houses,	..	..	..	..	12
Total,	..	..	..	..	362

In addition 28 houses were in course of construction at the end of the year.

Two houses were built by private enterprise.

The Housing Register was reviewed on two or three occasions and it was found that the number of applicants for houses increased and decreased in an unaccountable manner. On the last day of the year the numbers were as follows :—

			<i>Local</i> <i>Applicants.</i>	<i>Outside</i> <i>Applicants.</i>
Two-roomed houses,	..	..	60	17
Three-roomed houses,	..	..	11	16
Four-roomed houses,	..	..	4	9
Total,	..	..	75	42

This number did not include the persons to whom the 56 new houses had been allocated.

Progress in connection with slum clearance was slow. In view of the trade depression in the town and of the apparent uncertainty displayed especially by the applicants for three-roomed houses, the Town Council decided to exercise caution in regard to the erection of a further group of houses. Early in the present year, however, the situation was carefully reviewed and the facts that there was every indication that housing subsidies would terminate in 1933, that no provision had been made in past housing schemes for the improvement of the housing of the poorer classes and that houses could be built with a rental within the means of a great many of the poorer people concerned, led the Town Council to proceed with the erection of 40 three-roomed houses and 6 four-roomed houses as the first steps in the proposed Muttoes Lane and Union Street Areas Clearance Schemes. A site for the new houses has been selected.

When this housing development has been completed the Town Council will have created a total of 436 houses, thereby providing for 390 applicants and 46 persons who will be de-housed, although it is probable that several of the latter will not become tenants of the new houses.

Since difficulty has already been encountered in finding tenants for houses even from the list of applicants, care will require to be exercised in proceeding with further housing schemes solely in response to the contents of the Housing Register. On the other hand, although it seems likely that the problem of Muttoes Lane and Union Street will be suitably disposed of, there yet remains the problem of insanitary houses in such areas as Shorehead, Loudens Close and Balfour Place. Action in connection with the unhealthy houses in these localities has been held up pending a solution of the Muttoes Lane and Union Street problem. The fact must be faced, therefore, that a further instalment of low-rented houses may be required before the Burgh becomes rid of its uninhabitable houses.

An estimate of the sufficiency of working class houses, however, must be approximate since the number of applicants for houses fluctuates and since the housing survey of the town has not yet been completed. It is estimated nevertheless that, excluding the houses in the Union Street and Muttoes Lane areas, there are about 60 additional uninhabitable houses. If there is added the number of applicants as at the end of the year the total number of houses required is in the neighbourhood of 177.

During the year plans were reported upon concerning alterations in 13 dwelling houses, 3 business premises and 1 dairy shop.

Three individual houses were reported upon under Section 16 of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1930, as unfit for human habitation. One of them was partially demolished. A demolition order was served upon the proprietors concerning another and action regarding the third was delayed.

Building Bye-laws.

Bye-laws regulating the building, alteration and reconditioning of houses are not yet available in St. Andrews. Progress, however, has been made in connection with their preparation. The officials of the Burgh have been in close touch with the Consultative Council on Local Health Administration and General Health Questions, who have prepared draft Bye-laws applicable to Burghs in Scotland. The proposals are now under the consideration of the Department of Health and it is to be hoped that before long the Town Council will be in a position to prepare Bye-laws for the Burgh.

Town Planning.

An opportunity is again taken of emphasising the necessity for the formation of a Town Planning Scheme. During recent years the occupied areas of the town have extended considerably and although every care has been taken to plan isolated developments so that ultimate arrangements will blend, many problems have arisen which had much better been dealt with under a Town Planning Scheme. Powers to promote any such undertaking now rest with the County Council and new legislation is being considered by the Government. Nevertheless it would be well if an early opportunity were taken by the Town Council to establish co-operation and invite action.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following number of cases of infectious diseases were notified :—

Scarlet Fever,	..	..	..	..	3
Diphtheria,	..	..	..	..	8
Erysipelas,	..	..	..	..	2
Puerperal Fever,	..	..	..	..	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum,	..	..	..	..	2
Chickenpox,	..	..	..	..	16
Acute Primary Pneumonia,	..	..	..	..	8
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia,	..	..	..	..	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis,	..	..	..	..	7
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis,	..	..	..	..	4
Puerperal Pyrexia,	..	..	..	..	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis,	..	..	..	..	1
Total,	..	..	..	..	54

Only a few cases of measles and whooping cough occurred and the prevalence of influenza during the winter months was insignificant. On the whole then, in common with the state of affairs in the county as a whole, the incidence of infectious diseases was remarkably low. No deaths occurred from any infectious disease. The situation, however, cannot be compared with the halcyon days of one hundred years ago. Writing in 1822 Dr. James Grierson states "Epidemic, or contagious diseases, are hardly ever known here; and it is a common remark in the place that if you come in good health, you will scarcely go away ill."

On the other hand he goes on to say—"The climate, however, is thought to be too sharp and penetrating for rheumatic constitutions or for such as have a predisposition to pulmonary consumption. Such persons seldom find themselves well in

St. Andrews." The statement is remarkably true of to-day. St. Andrews is no more gentle with the victims of rheumatic affections, and the incidence of tuberculosis varies little year by year. Improved methods of treatment, however, have caused a noticeable decline in the death rate from that disease.

The following number of patients were treated in hospital or other institutions, the average duration of stay of patients in the City Fever Hospital being 23·5 days :—

			<i>City Hospital.</i>	<i>Other Institutions.</i>
Scarlet Fever,	..	..	13	..
Diphtheria,	..	..	10	..
Erysipelas,	..	..	1	..
Puerperal Fever,	..	..	..	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia,	..	..	2	..
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia,	..	..	1	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis,	..	..	..	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis,	..	..	..	1
Mumps,	..	..	1	..
Observation Cases,	..	..	2	..
			—	—
			20	4
			—	—

No deaths occurred among the patients in the City Fever Hospital.

Use of Disinfectants.

A decision of some significance concerning the use of disinfectants by Sanitary Inspectors was reached by the County Council who are now responsible for measures in the control of infectious diseases. Advances in bacteriological knowledge have shown that, for the most part, all the time and money which has been spent on disinfecting apartments after removal of cases of infectious diseases has been wasted. The popular belief in the power of disinfectants has been ill-founded and akin to the burning of incense to propitiate a god of disease. Household-ers, therefore, need not be dismayed if the Sanitary Inspector declines to spray an apartment with disinfectant. All that is necessary to secure proper disinfection is the opening of doors and windows and scrubbing with soap and water. Articles of apparel and bedding alone need be steeped in disinfectant fluid suitably diluted or, on occasion, they may be steam disinfected. Citizens of St. Andrews have no reason to be apprehensive in the matter. For the past few years a great many houses in the town have not been subjected to the process of disinfection and it has been found

that the number of secondary cases from these houses was no greater than the number from the houses which had been disinfectcd.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

There are pleasing indications that the protection which can be gained against diphtheria by inoculation is being realised by parents. During the year 41 children were brought to the City Fever Hospital for the necessary series of injections. After the appropriate interval 30 children were re-tested and all gave a negative reaction.

None of the children who had previously been inoculated contracted diphtheria during the epidemic of 1929, although several of them were known to have been exposed to infection. Similar results have been encountered in other centres in the country where diphtheria immunisation is practised. Such being the case a serious responsibility now rests with parents whose children become infected.

MOTHER AND CHILD WELFARE SCHEME.

The St. Andrews Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme affords an excellent illustration of the harmonious working of combined private and public interests.

The St. Andrews Nursing and Child Welfare Association provide and staff the Child Welfare Clinic at 66 North Street, for infants and children under 2 years of age.

The Council of the James Mackenzie Institute provide consulting rooms and laboratory services for children over two years of age and for ante-natal cases.

The Medical Research Council give a grant which encompasses the salary of the Child Welfare Officer and the upkeep of his records.

The County Council give a grant towards the funds of the St. Andrews Nursing and Child Welfare Association and two of their officials, the Area Medical Officer and the District Health Visitor, are associated with the Child Welfare Officer in the work of the scheme.

Dr. Rowand, the Child Welfare Officer, has brought the scheme to a high degree of efficiency and has established intimate co-operation with the general practitioners of the town.

Births.

The Health Visitor received intimation regarding 104 births of which 3 had occurred outside the Burgh boundaries. Of these births 15 were attended by doctors in the Memorial Cottage Hospital, 4 by doctors and private nurses in patients' homes, 47 by doctors and the Maternity and Child Welfare Nurse in patients' homes and 38 by the Maternity and Child Welfare Nurse alone. There were 6 illegitimate births. The number of still births was 2, one in the practice of doctors and one in the practice of midwives. There was one case of twins in the Burgh.

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths among infants under one year of age rose from 5 in 1930 to 9 in 1931, the rate being 93 per 1000 births. One of the infants died in hospital in Edinburgh and another in hospital in Dundee. The causes of death were as follows :—

Under 1 week—

Prematurity,	..	..	..	2
Intracranial Haemorrhage,	..	..	..	3
Congenital Heart,	..	..	..	1

3—6 months—

Broncho-pneumonia,	..	..	..	2
Congenital heart,	..	..	..	1

There were three deaths among children in the 1—5 years age group.

Altogether the year was not a happy one so far as the mortality rate among the juvenile population was concerned.

Maternal Mortality.

No deaths occurred among mothers—a satisfactory contrast.

Nursing Service.

One whole-time midwife is employed by the St. Andrews Nursing and Child Welfare Association. The Health Visitor is also a registered midwife but her practice is confined to emergency cases only.

The Association also employs a District Nurse and a Baby-craft Nurse who attends to the Ailing Babies Ward in the Centre.

There were nine calls for medical help as under—

Condition of baby,	..	..	..	1
Ruptured perineum,	..	..	..	1
Delay in 1st stage,	..	..	..	1
Delay in 2nd stage,	..	..	..	1
Cyanosis,	..	..	..	1
Discharging eyes,	..	..	..	2
Still births,	..	..	..	1
Ante partum haemorrhage,	..	..	..	1

Home Visitations.

The total number of children under 5 years of age on the register of the Child Welfare Centre was 546 at the end of the year. The following number of visits were paid :—

			<i>Number Visited.</i>	<i>Total Visits.</i>
Under 1 year,	..	..	199	1407
1—5 years, ..	..	..	347	1002
Expectant Mothers, ..	..	..	81	420
Total, ..	..	..	627	2829

In addition 44 visits were paid to children residing outside the Burgh and 8 visits were paid to 3 expectant mothers residing outside the Burgh.

The total number of visits paid by the nurses was therefore 3385.

Infant Feeding.

The following figures are applicable to the number of infants on the register reaching the age of 6 months in each of the past 10 years :—

Year.	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
Per cent. breast fed, ..	64	61	62	63	59	66	62	58	50	59
Per cent. partially breast fed, ..	6	6	16	4	12	8	11	10	14	5
Per cent. bottle fed, ..	30	33	22	33	29	26	27	32	36	36

It is satisfactory to note that an increase occurred in the number of babies who were entirely breast fed. It is also encouraging to know that of 60 babies attended at birth by the maternity nurse of the Association and followed up by her during the breast feeding period, 65 per cent. were entirely breast fed at 6 months, 3 per cent. were partially breast fed and 32 per cent. were artificially fed. Since it is an undoubted fact that human milk is the correct food for the human infant it is encouraging to record that the decline in the number of breast fed babies which occurred in 1930 has been arrested.

Ante-Natal Consultations.

Ante-natal consultations continued to be held in the James Mackenzie Institute. Expectant mothers were brought to the Clinic by their own doctors and by the midwife. All patients were attended by the doctors of their own choice.

Fourteen weekly sessions were held during which 37 expectant mothers made 40 attendances. None of them presented any marked abnormal features on examination.

Post-Natal Consultations.

There is no need for special facilities for post-natal consultations in the Burgh. During the year the Association Nurses paid 1428 visits to 88 post-natal cases.

CHILD WELFARE CONSULTATIONS.

1. Child Welfare Centre.

Clinics were held by Dr. Rowand twice weekly in the Child Welfare Centre, in sessions lasting $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours each. One hundred and three sessions were held during which 252 children were inspected. The following attendances were recorded:—

(a) Number of children attending—

(i) Under 1 year of age,	..	..	..	196
(ii) 1—2 years of age,	..	..	..	31
(iii) Over 2 years,	..	..	..	25
Total,	..	..	..	252

(b) Number of attendances—

(i) Under 1 year of age.	..	..	..	992
(ii) 1—2 years of age,	..	..	..	163
(iii) Over 2 years,	..	..	..	48
Total,	..	..	..	1203

In addition 113 visits were paid to the Nurses at the Centre at times other than those of the doctor's consultation hours.

Over 90 per cent. of all the babies born in the Burgh again received the benefit of the service of the Centre. The high percentage might be thought to indicate that many people, who should not, were availing themselves of the facilities offered by the Centre. The presumption is not justifiable, however. Many better class mothers are as much in need of the advice which the Centre can give regarding infant feeding and hygiene as are poor mothers and family doctors encourage their patients to attend.

2. James Mackenzie Institute.

Sixty-one special clinics in sessions lasting $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours each were held by Dr. Rowand in the James Mackenzie Institute for children over 2 years of age.

(a) Number of children attending—

(i) 2—5 years of age,	..	..	..	206
(ii) Over 5 years of age,	..	..	..	126
Total,	..	..	..	332

(b) Number of attendances—

(i) 2—5 years of age,	..	..	..	342
(ii) Over 5 years of age,	..	..	..	134
Total,	..	..	..	<u>476</u>

The special clinic to which school children are summoned by post card was continued. Its popularity remained undiminished. The Area Medical Officer of the District continued to add to Dr. Rowand's records and to utilise the material recorded in his files.

Observation Nursery.

The observation Nursery at the Child Welfare Centre provides for the needs of ailing babies and for infants in need of regulated feeding or hygienic care. Four cots are available.

<i>Number of cases attending.</i>		<i>Resident.</i>	<i>Non-Resident.</i>
(i) Under 1 year of age,	..	4	54
(ii) Over 1 year of age,	..	1	1
Total,	..	<u>5</u>	<u>55</u>
<i>Number of attendances—</i>			
(i) Under 1 year of age,	..	52	627
(ii) Over 1 year of age,	..	41	3
Total,	..	<u>93</u>	<u>630</u>

Food and Milk Supply.

On the application of the Health Visitor food and milk was given by the County Council to 5 nursing mothers and 9 necessitous infants and pre-school children. All the applications were approved of on medical grounds by the Medical Officer of the Centre.

Anonymous gifts of 1 pint of milk daily and of cod liver oil occasionally were given to the Centre by private individuals. All the children attending the Infant Schools were supplied with a pint of milk daily by Mrs. Younger of Mount Melville.

All the milk given from these various sources was certified.

Provision for Maternity Cases.

Since accommodation was no longer available, the arrangement originally made by the Town Council with the Scores Nursing Home regarding the hospital treatment of cases of difficult or dangerous labour, terminated during the year. Such cases are now transferred to Dundee after consultation with Dr. Margaret Fairlie who has been appointed for the purpose by the County Council.

The Memorial Cottage Hospital is registered as a Maternity Home under the Midwives and Maternity Homes (Scotland) Act, 1927. The premises are in every way of satisfactory nature. Four beds in single wards are available.

Sixteen confinements took place, all with medical attendance. Of these 4 were instrumental deliveries due to delay in the second stage or to contracted pelvis. There were no maternal deaths.

Two infants under one week died. There were no still births.

On account of the feeble condition of the mother one infant was given artificial feeding.

Provision for Cases of Puerperal Fever.

Facilities for the treatment of cases of puerperal fever were provided in Thornton Infectious Diseases Hospital which is fully equipped for the purpose. One patient, who unfortunately died, was transferred from the Burgh.

FOOD SUPPLY.

Milk Supply.

The County Council is now the Local Authority responsible for the milk supply under the Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act, 1914. In St. Andrews there are four dairy farms containing 60 cows and four dairy shops. All the premises complied reasonably well with the requirements of the County Dairy Bye-laws and no circumstances having an injurious influence on the milk supply were discovered.

Certified milk is supplied to the town from Woodburn Dairy and from Wester Balrymonth Dairy Farm, which is situated outside the Burgh boundaries. The high statutory requirements for the production of this milk were fully maintained and the town is fortunate in having available such sources of supply.

The City Fever Hospital and the Child Welfare Centre are supplied by the Local Authority with Certified Milk and St. Leonards School for Girls obtains its milk supply partly from a County Certified Milk Dairy Farm and partly from a model dairy farm which produces milk fully the equal of certified milk in cleanliness and quality.

On a day in the month of April, a time when the population is as stationary as may be, an investigation was made into the consumption of milk in the Burgh. The following number of gallons of milk were supplied from 18 dairy premises :—

Certified Milk,	..	..	68	gallons.
Ordinary Milk,	..	..	679	„
Total,	..	..	<hr/>747	<hr/> gallons.

The average consumption per head of population was 0·54 pints. A similar investigation was carried out in 1928 when it was found that the average consumption was 0·55 pints. There continues, therefore, to be every indication that there is room for a considerably increased consumption of milk in the Burgh. The excellence of milk as an article of diet has been proved again and again. Not only is it a perfectly balanced food of high nutritive value but its cheapness renders it a commodity within the reach of all members of the community. Although it may not be so satisfying, it is healthier to consume a pint of milk than to eat a loaf of the white, finely milled bread of to-day.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

Sixty-five samples of food stuffs were submitted for analysis. All were reported to be genuine except 2 samples of mince which were found to be adulterated. Six samples of icecream were subjected to analysis. There is no standard of food value for icecream but the Analyst declared the samples to be "of low class quality"—a sad reflection on the icecream vendors of St. Andrews.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

Twenty-eight visits of inspection were paid to the factories, workshops and workplaces in the Burgh. Defects under the Public Health Acts were found in 3 premises in 2 of which the necessary remedial steps were taken. On the whole the condition of these premises in the town is of very satisfactory nature.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Town Hall Buildings,
St. Andrews.

To The Honourable The Department of Health for Scotland, and
the Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of the Royal
Burgh of St. Andrews.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Second Annual
Report upon the General Sanitary Condition of the Burgh, and
the work done by the Department during the year 1931.

I would again acknowledge the assistance rendered me by the
other officials of the Town Council, the Medical Officer of Health
and the District Sanitary Inspector of the Fife County Council.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the require-
ments of the Department of Health for Scotland.

I have the honour to remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALEXANDER H. STEELE.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1931.

The Department call upon each Sanitary Inspector to include in his report :—

(a) A general account of the sanitary state of the Burgh. This account should deal specifically with water-supply, drainage (including sewage disposal), and scavenging, and with any suggestions for the improvement of these services. It should also deal with nuisances and other matters affecting the public health.

(b) Particulars as to (i) the number of common water-closets in use in the Burgh, shewing separately the number serving 2, 3, 4, and 5 or more tenants respectively ; (ii) the number of houses without water-supply and sink inside the house ; and (iii) the number of (a) dry closets, (b) privy-middens, and (c) ashpits, shewing for each separately the number serving 2, 3, 4 and 5 or more tenants respectively.

(c) An account of his general inspections, and of any special inspections or enquiries, including the supervision of slaughter-houses and other offensive trades, and the sanitary condition of factories and workshops.

(d) An account of the condition of the common lodging-houses.

(e) An account of the condition of the burial-grounds.

(f) An account of his proceedings under the Burgh Police Acts.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

On Friday, the 8th May 1931, the Meteorological Station was transferred from the Boys' Brigade Hall site to a new site on the Bruce Embankment, under the supervision of Mr. R. H. Matthews, Meteorologist, R.A.F. Base, Leuchars, and the new site is situated 13·25 feet above Ordnance Datum. The equipment of the station consists of the following instruments :—

Mercury Barometer—Kew pattern (situated in Putting Green Pavilion) 20·05 feet above Ordnance Datum.

Dry Bulb Thermometer	} In Screen.
Wet Bulb Thermometer,	
Maximum Thermometer,	
Minimum Thermometer,	

Rain Gauge—Snowdon pattern.

Grass Minimum—Terrestrial Radiation.

Earth Thermometers—1 foot and 4 feet below the surface of the ground.

Campbell-Stokes Sunshine Recorder—112 feet above Ordnance Datum (placed at Kinburn).

During the year 1929 it was found that the sunshine records taken at the Meteorological Station were not reliable, by reason of encroachment by surrounding buildings falsifying results, and the Sunshine Recorder was accordingly removed to its present site ;

During the year 1931 there was registered a total of 1376·8 hours of bright sunshine, and this represents the third highest reading for Scotland.

On January 29th, 1931, an article headed " Let's Boost our Sunshine " appeared in the *Dundee Courier and Advertiser*, and commenced with the glorious slogan " Scotland for Sunshine," and went on to deal with the reputed decry of Caledonia being stern and wild, and for Scotch mists and such like, and making the suggestion that there was no reason why the patriotic travel authorities who are endeavouring to attract the travelling public to our country should not boost out sunshine records a bit more.

The article dealt with the fact that in 1931 Arbroath held the distinction of being the sunniest place in Scotland, and drew attention to the fact that apart from Arbroath there were other Scottish places that had something to make a noise about in the matter of sunshine.

The following table shows the sunshine at the South Coast of England and Channel Islands, all of these places being well boosted as resorts :—

Guernsey, ..	1753·8	Jersey, ..	1750·3
Eastbourne ..	1670·9	Brighton, ..	1635·0
Southport, ..	1535·5	Bournemouth, ..	1494·0
Douglas (Isle of Man)	1429·0	Llandudno ..	1371·6
Leamington, ..	1196·3	Blackpool, ..	1348·2
Colwyn Bay ..	1353·3	Harrogate, ..	1259·4
Ilfracombe, ..	1341·7	Cambridge, ..	1324·4
Southport, ..	1361·2	Ascot, ..	1360·1
Keswick, ..	1053·6	Malvern, ..	1376·5

Compare the figures above with the following Scottish totals, and it will be observed that Scotland compares very favourably with the English resorts.

Arbroath, ..	1407·6	Leuchars, ..	1388·4
St. Andrews, ..	1376·8	Carnoustie, ..	1362·7
Tiree, ..	1348·9	Inchkeith, ..	1322·4
Dunbar, ..	1308·4	Edinburgh, ..	1297·8
Dundee, ..	1278·7	Fortrose, ..	1275·9
Perth, ..	1267·6	North Berwick, ..	1238·3
Inverness, ..	1236·3	Nairn, ..	1235·0
Aberdeen, ..	1216·4	Banff, ..	1208·5
Stornoway, ..	1201·9	Dumfries, ..	1180·8
Stirling, ..	1147·1	Stonehaven, ..	1143·1
Paisley, ..	1125·6	Oban, ..	1117·7
Lerwick, ..	1115·1	Rothsay, ..	1092·8
Dalwhinnie, ..	1005·0	Fort Augustus, ..	733·7

Fort Augustus gives the lowest record in the whole list, but it compares with Manchester, Oldham Road, 876·9; Onich, 894·9; Mauchester, Whitworth Park, 967·7; Bolton, 970·8; Swinton, 997·6.

(With acknowledgment to Dundee *Courier*.)

The following table shows the number of hours (daily mean) of bright sunshine during 1931, at five stations in Scotland :—

Month.	Aberdeen	Arbroath	Carnoustie	Leuchars	St. Andrews
January,	2·03	2·47	2·13	2·71	2·44
February,	2·92	3·11	2·74	2·92	2·99
March,	3·45	3·78	3·75	4·28	4·02
April	3·56	4·81	4·58	4·32	4·46
May	6·03	6·75	6·76	6·86	7·05
June,	5·09	6·06	5·96	5·83	5·72
July,	2·67	3·20	3·01	2·93	3·39
August,	4·17	4·05	3·93	3·86	3·66
September,	3·67	4·49	4·67	4·48	4·60
October,	3·36	4·47	4·16	4·13	4·44
November,	1·56	1·77	1·68	1·84	1·95
December,	1·46	1·28	1·41	1·45	0·53

The following table shows the number of hours of bright sunshine per month at six stations in Scotland :—

Month	Aberdeen	St. Andrews	Stirling	Paisley	Oban	Rothsay
January,	62·8	75·7	57·0	48·7	37·6	44·6
February,	801·7	803·7	66·4	60·6	54·3	50·9
March,	107·0	124·7	124·6	100·5	121·6	112·5
April,	106·8	133·8	130·5	134·2	127·6	130·8
May,	186·8	218·6	162·7	173·2	163·6	157·9
June,	152·7	171·5	110·7	107·9	120·5	100·0
July,	82·9	105·1	99·8	95·6	84·6	80·6
August,	129·4	113·5	148·4	166·2	192·7	189·0
September,	110·1	138·0	118·6	98·2	104·9	97·2
October,	104·2	137·5	96·9	99·1	72·1	86·7
November,	46·8	58·4	18·5	30·0	23·9	29·8
December,	45·2	16·3	13·0	11·4	14·3	12·8

From the above table it will be observed that with the exception of December the hours of bright sunshine recorded at St. Andrews is considerably greater during the winter months than at the other five stations.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply to the Burgh is excellent in quality and the quantity is abundant.

The supply is owned and controlled by the Town Council, and the whole supply is drawn from Cameron reservoir which has a capacity of 222,000,000 gallons.

The catchment area at Cameron extends to 1456 acres, and approximately 50 per cent. of the area is owned and controlled by the Town Council and is laid out in pasture.

The area of Cameron reservoir is 105 acres, and is situated 474·0 feet above Ordnance Datum.

The supply at Cairnsmill reservoir is now used entirely for the irrigation of the Links.

On the whole supply for the Burgh being drawn from Cameron Reservoir, it was found that the existing main was hardly capable of delivering the quantity likely to be required during the summer seasons. It was therefore decided to lay a duplicate main from Cameron Reservoir to Pipeland Filters, which would cope with the demand for years to come.

From the intake at Cameron Reservoir the new main is a 12 inch diameter cast-iron pipe for a distance of 1·71 miles, thereafter it is a 9 inch diameter cast-iron pipe to the filters, a distance of 2·12 miles, or a total length of new main of 3·83 miles.

Cross connections are provided between the old and the new mains, at Priorletham Road, and at Langraw, near the railway so that sections of the main can be cut off for repairs, etc.

The scheme was approved of for Grant by the Unemployment Grants Committee. The contract was commenced on 15th June and completed by 31st October. The work was somewhat retarded by an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease on Langraw Farm, and for some weeks nothing could be done on the lands of this farm.

The old filters at Lower Pipeland, fed from Cairnsmill Reservoir, are now in disuse, and all the water is filtered at Upper Pipeland. The use of Arran sand as a filtering medium is being extended, and is replacing the local sand. Of the 12 filters at Upper Pipeland at the end of the year, five had been filled with Arran sand and seven still remained with local sand. The work of changing over to Arran sand is still proceeding.

The following table gives the length and size of new mains laid during the year :—

	12 inch.	9 inch.	3 inch.
Cameron to Pipeland, ..	1·71 mls.	2·12 mls.	..
The " Scores," ..	..	..	245 yds.
John Street, ..	..	..	97 yds.

or a total of 4·02 Miles of new mains.

The total length of mains is now 21·43 miles, 9·43 miles being trunk mains and 12 miles being distribution mains. The 3-inch main laid in the " Scores " was put down in lieu of an existing 2-inch main removed.

Thirty-two new connections were made to the water mains during the year, these being made up as follows :—

- 7 connections of 1 inch bore.
- 11 connections of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch bore.
- 14 connections of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch bore.

The new 3-inch main at the Scores serves the district from Murray Park to the Grand Hotel, while the new main in John Street supplies the houses there, from Argyle Street to the Lade Braes.

During the year 1100 Notices were issued in respect of waste of water and defective fittings.

The average consumpt of water per head of the population was 71·7 gallons or double the quantity usually allowed for domestic purposes, and with the number of notices issued in respect of waste it is to be assumed that a great deal of water is allowed to run to waste, and that the average consumer does not appreciate the fact that in the Burgh water is a manufactured product in the preparation of which, for consumption, has involved considerable expense.

The charge for water is very low, considering the convenience and benefit, and as the charge is based on the rental of the house, irrespective of the amount used, and as no restrictions are placed on its consumption, very little importance is attached to it, and the prevention of waste is, in many cases, an unnecessary attention, and it behoves all to exercise reasonable precautions to prevent wasteful and extravagant use of water and thus endeavour to keep down the cost to the lowest level consistent with the adequacy and purity of the supply.

The following tables give the Abstract of Monthly Consumpt of water filtered at Pipeland, and the Abstract of Consumpt of water filtered at Pipeland for the years 1911 to 1931 :—

ST. ANDREWS WATER.

Abstract of Monthly Consumpt of Water Filtered at Pipeland 1931.

Month.	Upper Filters	Lower Filters.	Total Consumpt Gallons.	Pipeland. inches.	Rainfall Cameron inches.
January,	20,653,000	1,059,840	21,712,840	2.31	2.55
February,	18,750,000	953,052	19,703,052	1.36	2.21
March,	20,540,000	1,843,440	22,383,440	0.89	1.03
April	18,826,000	1,413,580	20,239,580	1.91	2.32
May,	20,619,000	1,551,310	22,170,310	2.72	3.28
June,	19,972,000	904,870	20,876,870	3.48	5.00
July,	20,197,000	1,475,560	21,672,560	4.15	5.09
August,	19,486,000	1,735,320	21,221,320	3.47	3.74
September,	17,998,000	1,395,050	19,393,050	1.46	2.17
October,	21,717,000	1,201,610	22,918,610	1.15	1.32
November,	23,510,000	197,720	23,707,720	7.18	6.78
December,	25,730,000	—	25,730,000	0.67	0.68
	247,998,000	13,731,352	261,729,352	30.75	36.17

Average consumpt per day, ..	261,729,352	= 717,066.72 gallons.
	365	
" " per month, ..	261,729,352	= 21,810.779 "
	12	
" " per head, ..	261,729,352	= 71.70 "
	365 x 10,000	

ST. ANDREWS WATER.
Abstract of Consumpt of Water Filtered at Pipeland Filters.
Years 1911-1931.

Year.	Total Consumpt.	Average per day.	Average per month.	Average per head.	Cameron, Inches.	Rainfall, Inches.	Rain Days.
1911	121,392,300	332,812.85	10,116,025	41.59	..	18.95	170
1912	136,199,500	372,076.72	11,349,958	46.50	..	27.93	180
1913	141,001,700	386,281.75	11,750,141	48.28	..	24.38	172
1914	139,544,700	382,314.24	11,328,725	47.79	..	21.10	180
1915	132,682,500	418,308.22	12,723,541	52.28	..	32.68	185
1916	157,959,700	432,766.30	13,163,308	54.09	43.75	38.85	204
1917	155,841,200	426,962.16	12,986,736	53.37	24.51	20.94	166
1918	156,302,200	428,252.60	13,026,016	53.53	26.81	24.92	177
1919	152,451,400	417,675.06	12,704,283	32.22	30.16	26.52	172
1920	161,043,600	440,009.83	13,420,300	55.00	30.02	26.91	185
1921	157,227,000	429,581.96	13,100,200	47.73	24.42	22.00	156
1922	161,520,900	441,040.71	13,460,075	47.42	24.40	27.23	181
1923	181,272,700	496,637.53	15,106,058	52.83	28.96	27.23	203
1924	178,209,800	486,912.02	14,850,816	51.25	34.10	31.85	185
1925	216,163,400	592,228.42	18,013,616	62.33	30.34	27.05	154
1926	253,879,300	695,556.98	21,156,608	69.55	37.13	34.76	190
1927	229,988,500	630,106.43	19,165,700	63.00	33.58	31.61	188
1928	220,094,900	601,352.18	18,341,200	60.13	37.76	35.36	203
1929	229,477,830	628,706.38	19,123,152	62.87	28.97	24.64	150
1930	240,002,280	657,544.9	20,000,190	65.75	35.45	32.43	177
1931	261,729,352	717,066.72	21,810,779	71.70	36.17	30.75	159

I am indebted to Mr. Watson, Burgh Engineer, for the foregoing tables, and information regarding the water supply.

DRAINAGE.

With the exception of flooding at Fleming Place, Dempster Terrace and the Scores, the sewerage system of the Burgh has functioned satisfactorily.

Unfortunately, on two occasions, flooding took place in parts of the Burgh, due to exceptionally heavy rains, and to the fact that at the time of the downpour the sewers were tidelocked, thus surecharging the sewers.

To overcome this repeated flooding 6 manholes were built on the sewer along the Scores and the sewer was dragged for its whole length. In addition the sewer at Dempster Terrace was lifted and relaid, and in the course of this work the old sewer was found to have sunk in places. There are still certain works to be carried out to obviate the flooding, and it is hoped that when this work is completed the results will be as desired.

New sewers were also laid to serve the latest development of the Housing Scheme at Lamond Drive, Shields Avenue, St. Nicholas Street, and also at Greenside Place Improvement Scheme.

The following table gives the work carried out and the sizes of the new sewers constructed :—

District	Size of Sewer.					
	15"	12"	9"	8"	7"	6"
St. Nicholas Street, Housing Scheme, .. ..	..	75	..	270	..	..
Lamond Drive Housing Scheme, .. ..	..	..	154	..	84	87
Shields Avenue Housing Scheme, .. ..	..	..	88	..	..	..
Dempster Terrace Sewer, .. ..	..	50	..	..	..	..
Dempster Terrace Overflows,	42	..	..	..	..	..
Dyersbrae Sewer,	38	..	..	..	..	..
Dyersbrae Twin Steel Pipes, .. ..	..	12	..	..	..	..
Dyersbrae Overflows, .. ..	..	54	..	..	..	..
Greenside Place Sewer,	75	17	..	..	..	..
Greenside Place Overflows,	15	..	..	18	..	..
Total in yards,	170	208	242	288	84	87

Grand Total, 1079 yards.

Twenty-seven new connections were made to the sewers in the Burgh during the year these being made up as follows :—

Kinkell Terrace, .. ..	..	..	..	7
St. Leonards Road, .. ..	..	..	..	1
Lamond Drive, .. ..	..	..	..	8
St. Nicholas Street, .. ..	..	..	..	4
Shields Avenue, .. ..	..	..	..	4
West Burn Lane, .. ..	..	..	..	1
Buchanan Gardens, .. ..	..	..	..	1
South Street, .. ..	..	..	..	1

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND CLEANSING.

The Burgh refuse is collected entirely by motor, and the services of two S.D. Freighters are utilized in this direction, and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping.

The method of collection and disposal has been in use for some considerable time, although it was only at the beginning of the year that the second motor vehicle was added to the equipment of the Cleansing Department. This vehicle took the place of three horses, but with the growth of the town it is estimated that the two motors are doing the work of seven horses. The manner in which the cleansing and refuse collection and disposal has been carried out has given no cause for complaint.

During the year the refuse was disposed by controlled tipping at a tip on the West Sands. The layers of material are restricted to a certain depth, and each day's deposit is top dressed with soil.

The cleansing of the streets is carried out on the "district" system, where one scavenger is constantly employed.

Fortunately, the absence of snow during the winter months made the work of the department easier, and there was no extra men taken on for the clearing of snow from the streets.

During the year a length of 588 yards of new streets has been added to the length of roads in the Burgh, as follows:—

District	Length	Width between Fences	Description
Lamond Drive.	340 yds.	40 ft.	Tarmac with 6 ft. footpaths.
Shields Avenue.	80 yds.	30 ft.	Tarmac with 5 ft. 6 inch. footpaths.
St. Nicholas Street.	168 yds.	30 ft.	Tarmac with 5 feet 6 inch. footpaths.

In addition, Langlands Road was widened for a length of 157 yards along the Recreation Park, to its full width of 40 feet.

Greenside Place was greatly improved by being widened (in some parts to its full width of 40 feet) with 6 feet adamant slab footpaths. The roadway was also raised at the south end to prevent flooding from the Kinness Burn, and a new bridge 40 feet wide was constructed across the burn.

The great increase, in recent years, of the length of streets, and the erection of new houses, has added very considerably to the work of the Department, in connection with refuse collection and street cleansing, and during the year it was found necessary to increase the staff by one man.

The fouling of the streets and footpavements by dogs has been very much in evidence during the past year, and in common with other towns, the matter is one which presents some difficulty

in finding a suitable remedy, but it is to be regretted that even dogs on leads may be seen being allowed by their owners to foul the pavements.

The question of litter is one which occupies a prominent place in most of the newspapers in the country, and in common with all other districts St. Andrews is not all it could and should be in this respect. There are at present 30 litter baskets throughout the Burgh, and although these are made use of to a great extent there is room for considerable improvement, particularly by those persons who frequent the fried fish and chip restaurants and carry out the meal to be eaten on the street.

I venture to quote two short odes on the litter question, which I think well worthy of repetition, and if acted upon, would do much to assist in keeping the natural beauty of this and other districts.

The first was erected at Wrotham in Kent, and is headed "A Request from the Holiday Fellowship," while the second appeared at Oare, in Somerset :—

Friend, when you stray, or sit and take your ease,
On Moor, or Fell, or under spreading trees,
Pray, leave no traces of your wayside meal,
No paper bag, no scattered orange peel ;
Nor daily journal, littered on the grass,
Others may view them with distaste, and pass,
Let no one say, and say it to your shame
That all was beauty here, until You came.

Resemble not the slimy snails
Who with their filth record their trails
Let it be said where you have been
You leave the face of Nature clean.

BUILDINGS.

Fifty-three applications were submitted and approved of by the Works Committee of the Town Council.

The plans submitted may be classified as follows :—

Municipal houses,	..	..	..	..	Nil
New Houses (private),	..	..	..	..	4
New Business premises (including University build- ings),	..	..	..	..	3
Alterations to Houses,	..	..	..	..	13
Alterations to business premises,	..	..	..	..	16
Miscellaneous (garages, sheds, railings, hanging signs, etc.),	..	..	..	..	17
					—
					53
					—

Fifty-eight houses were erected and passed during the year. These houses are of the following sizes :—

Four 4-roomed houses,	}	Municipal.
Four 3-roomed houses,		
Four 2-roomed houses,		

Two 4-roomed houses (private).

The following table gives the number of new sanitary fittings erected in connection with the foregoing alterations and new buildings :—

61	new baths.
71	new wash-hand basins.
63	new water-closets.
61	new fireclay sinks.
52	new fireclay wash-tubs.

308 Total.

TESTING OF DRAINAGE AND SANITARY FITTINGS.

The smoke test was applied to the drainage and sanitary fittings of the following properties :—

56	Municipal houses at Priestden Parks.
3	Bungalows at Kinkell Terrace.
	Windsor Hotel.
	Deans Court.
	Inglewood.
29	Argyle Street.
	New house at Buchanan Gardens.

In all cases the work was found to have been carried through in a tradesmanlike manner, and proper interception, disconnection and ventilation provided.

PROVISION OF WATER CLOSETS AND SINKS IN TENEMENTAL PROPERTIES.

During the year 7 Notices were issued to proprietors to provide extra water closets.

Two of the Notices have been complied with, two are now in hand, and the remaining three, are still pending.

A great many of the properties, where extra water closets are required, are of an old type, and it is proposed to have a survey of these before doing anything in the nature of calling for the provision of extra fittings.

The same remarks apply regarding the provision of sinks in houses.

From the records it appears that the figures given in previous reports were compiled from the results of a housing survey carried through in 1923, and it appears that these figures are hardly reliable, but the whole question is receiving attention.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The public conveniences within the Burgh are well kept. These are washed daily and no complaint was lodged regarding their condition.

The conveniences in the Burgh are as under :—

Ladies Waiting Room, Market Street—4 W.C.'s and 3 Wash-hand basins.

Ladies Waiting Room, Links—2 W.C.'s and 1 Wash-hand basin.

Gentlemen's Conveniences, Links—5 W.C.'s, 1 Wash-hand basin and 2 three-stalled urinals.

Gentlemen's Conveniences, Harbour—3 W.C.'s and two-stalled urinal.

Gentlemen's Conveniences, Kirkhill—2 W.C.'s and two-stalled urinal.

Gentlemen's Conveniences, Church Square—2 W.C.'s and four-stalled urinal.

East Bents Putting Green—1 W.C. and two-stalled urinal for Gentlemen, and 1 W.C. for Ladies.

Kinburn Public Park—1 W.C. and two-stalled urinal for Gentlemen and 1 W.C. for Ladies.

With the exception of the conveniences at the Harbour, and one W.C. at Church Square, all the W.C.'s and wash-hand basins are in cubicles, with automatic slot-locks.

It is with regret that I have to again refer to the amount of damage done to the fittings of the conveniences, and it is very difficult to detect the perpetrator of this wanton destruction, and as well as the cost of repair to the fittings, locks are put out of action so that persons desiring admission to the various conveniences are greatly inconvenienced.

It should be the duty of all persons who see damage being done to these conveniences, to report the matter to the police, and in doing so they are protecting what is their own interests.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

During the year the following samples of foods were procured for analysis :—

Milk,	..	..	..	..	..	43
Mince,	..	..	..	..	..	3
Whole Rice,	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ground Rice,	..	..	..	..	..	1
Oatmeal,	..	..	..	..	..	1
Flour,	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sugar,	..	..	..	..	..	1
Creamola,	..	..	..	..	..	1
Margarine,	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ground Cinnamon,	1
Tea,	1
Black Pepper,	1
Cocoa,	1
Ground Coffee,	1
Ice Cream,	6
<hr/>						
Total,	64
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Of the 64 samples submitted to the Analyst, 43 milk and 19 other food samples were reported upon as being "Genuine," while 2 samples of mince were reported upon as "Non-Genuine."

The highest "Fat" content of the samples of milk submitted for analysis was 4.50 and the lowest was 3.00 and the average "Fat" content of the whole 43 samples was 3.63.

The following table gives the result of the analysis of the 6 samples of ice-cream :—

					<i>Fat.</i>
Sample No.	88	Ice-cream,	..		2.16 per cent.
"	89	"	..	..	1.52 "
"	90	"	..	..	2.52 "
"	91	"	..	..	2.48 "
"	92	"	..	..	2.02 "
"	93	"	..	..	1.65 "

The average "Fat" content of the whole 6 samples is only 2.06 per cent. and does not even reach the standard of 3 per cent. usually found in sweet milk, and from this it may be deducted that the milk used in the manufacture must be skim milk, or considerably "watered."

To quote the words of the Analyst, "In the absence of a standard, I am reporting these samples genuine, although they are of a very low class quality."

A standard of at least 3 per cent. of milk fat in this commodity is urgently required, and if the above can be taken as an indication of the quality supplied, it is a misnomer to use the word "cream," and it is usually to allow 1 pint of cream per gallon of sweet milk used to secure a "fat" content of at least 3 per cent.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

The present slaughterhouse has been adversely reported upon for the past few years, and I am pleased to report that a definite proposal for the erection of a new abattoir has now been agreed upon, and at present the building is in course of erection. I do not intend to deal with the new structure at this time, and will report the matter more fully after the premises have been in use.

In regard to the present slaughterhouse, visits have been made from time to time, and it was always found that the present premises are kept in excellent order, and efficiently cleansed.

During the year an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in the district considerably added to the work at the Slaughterhouse, and as a precaution, I suggested to the Town Council that all vehicles entering the Slaughterhouse should be washed and disinfected before leaving the premises. I am happy to say that the Town Council unanimously agreed to adopt my suggestion, and during the whole course of the outbreak all vehicles were treated, free of cost to the owners.

The following table gives the number and kinds of animals slaughtered during 1931 :—

Cattle,	..	..	..	..	..	729
Sheep,	..	..	..	..	..	2640
Pigs,	..	..	..	..	..	269
Calves,	..	..	..	..	..	76
Total,	..	..	..	..	..	3714

The following table gives the amount of diseased meat seized during the year :—

Cattle.		Sheep.		Pigs.	
Wholly.	Partially.	Wholly.	Partially.	Wholly.	Partially.
3	3	3	4	..	2
1424 lbs.		263 lbs.		15 lbs.	
		1702 lbs.			

Table of diseased organs and offal seized :—

Disease.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	No. of Seizures.
Piped Liver,	1030 lbs.	22 lbs.	..	160
Liver Fluke,	54 lbs.	4 lbs.	..	6
Chill,	6 lbs.	..	..	2
Abscess,	108 lbs.	3 lbs.	..	9
Tuberculosis,	226 lbs.	..	..	3
Cirrhosis,	8 lbs.	..	..	2
	1432 lbs.	29 lbs.	..	182

1461 lbs.

The total weight of all meat, offal and organs seized, and destroyed is :—3163 lbs.

The business of Hide Factor and Tripe and Gut Cleaning is carried on within the Slaughterhouse, but as these are properly conducted, call for no comment.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no Common Lodging Houses within the Burgh.

BURIAL GROUNDS.

The burial grounds within the Burgh are well kept, and no complaints were received regarding their condition.

BURGH POLICE ACTS.

During the year 53 warrants were granted by the Works Committee of the Town Council, 17 of these being for the erection and alteration of dwelling-houses, and 19 for the erection and alteration of business premises, and the remaining 17 being for work of miscellaneous character.

Seventeen notices in terms of Section 164 of the Act of 1892 were issued, and 32 notices in terms of Section 117 of the same Act.

Court proceedings were taken against a householder for depositing night-soil and waste on the public street, and the charge was proved, and the Court admonished the accused.

SCHOOLS.

The schools within the Burgh are well kept, and with the exception of the Madras College no action has been taken in connection with any of the schools. In regard to the Madras College I carried out an inspection of the sanitary fitments, and prepared a lengthy report thereon. This report was forwarded to the proper authority, and at the end of the year the matter was pending.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

In terms of Section 69 of the Public Health Act, 1897, one burial was undertaken at a cost of £6 5s of which a sum of 4s 6d was refunded by the Insurance Company.

NUISANCES.

Twenty complaints were received during the year in respect of alleged nuisances. Five of these complaints were written and 15 were made verbally.

Considerable time is taken up in the investigation of these complaints, and in a great many instances it was found that the Sanitary Inspector was being made the "cat's paw" of some "stair-head" quarrel.

Nine intimations were issued in terms of Section 19 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, but it was not found necessary to take any action under Section 20 of the Act.

During the year it was found that on two occasions persons were camping in tents and vans on the dunes adjoining the West Sands. On being requested the parties removed, and no further trouble was experienced.

There is a proper camping place at the East end of the town, and although there has been no serious cause for complaint, I intend to have a different arrangement carried into effect at the next season.

HOUSING.

During the year a start was made to erect 84 houses at Priestden Parks, making the seventh development of the housing scheme in the Burgh, and at the end of the year 56 of the houses were completed and occupied.

At the end of the year the number of houses that have been erected by the Town Council (including 15 houses at Abbey Court and South Street) was as follows :—

Development,	2 rms.	3 rms.	4 rms.	5 rms.	Total.
Abbey Court,	2	..	3	..	5
South Court,	2	2	1	..	5
42 South Street,	3	2	..	..	5
1st Development,	..	20	36	12	68
2nd ,,	..	32	18	..	50
3rd ,,	..	36	15	..	51
4th ,,	24	..	..	..	24
5th ,,	20	20	10	..	50
6th ,,	48	..	..	..	48
7th ,,	4	48	4	..	56
Totals,	103	160	87	12	362

On 31st December 1931, the applications for municipal houses numbered 117, and of these 75 were local applicants, and the remaining 42 were applicants from outwith the Burgh.

The following table gives the number of applicants and the size of house applied for :—

<i>Local Applicants.</i>					
2-roomed houses,	..	..	..	..	60
3-roomed houses,	..	..	..	..	11
4-roomed houses,	..	..	..	..	4
					<hr/> 75
<i>Applicants Outwith Burgh.</i>					
2-roomed houses,	..	..	..	..	17
3-roomed houses,	..	..	..	..	16
4-roomed houses,	..	..	..	..	9
					<hr/> 42

The above figures do not include any allocations to be made to the remaining 28 houses still to be completed in the seventh development.

Report for the year ending 31st December 1931, on proceedings taken as regards the Inspection, Improvement and Demolition and Closure of dwellinghouses.

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations (Scotland) 1928.

1. Number of dwellinghouses inspected, 5
2. Number of dwellinghouses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 5

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1925.

3. Number of cases where intimations were given under Section 20 (1) as to insufficient water-closet accommodation :—
 - (a) Cases where requirements complied with by owners, (a) ..
 - (b) Cases where work carried out by Local Authority after failure of owners to do so (b) ..
 - (c) Cases still pending, (c) ..

4. Number of houses of (a) one apartment, and (b) two apartments, for the erection of which the consent of the Local Authority has been given in terms of Section One hundred and eleven, (a)..

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1930.

6. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served under Section 14 (1),
7. Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit for human habitation following on notices under Section 14 (1),
8. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which work has been done by the Local Authority under Section 15 (1),
9. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which in terms of Section 17 a demolition order or closing order under Section 16 (3) has been substituted for a notice under Section 14 (1),
10. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served in terms of Section 16 (1), .. 3
11. Number of dwellinghouses referred to in 10 :—
- (a) which have been rendered fit for human habitation, (a)..
- (b) in respect of which undertaking has been given that the house will not be used for human habitation until it has been rendered so fit, (b)..
- (c) in respect of which demolition orders have been made under Section 16 (3), .. (c) 1
- (d) in respect of which closing orders have been made under Section 16 (3) and (4), .. (d)..
12. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which closing orders have, in terms of Section 16 (3), been determined by the Local Authority, following upon the houses having been rendered fit for human habitation,
13. Number of houses in respect of which advances have been made in terms of Section 34 towards cost of repair and amount so advanced.

UN SOUND FOOD.

During the year 32 sacks of Dutch potatoes, each weighing 100 lbs., and 30 tins of preserved peaches, each weighing 1 lb., were seized and destroyed, as being unfit for human consumption. The potatoes were decaying, and the tins of peaches were badly blown.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS.

Twenty-eight visits of inspection were made to Factories and Workshops in the Burgh. While the general sanitary condition of all the premises are good it was found necessary to issue 3 notices calling for the removal of minor defects.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Fifty-four notifications of Infectious Disease were notified during the year, and the following table gives the age group of the patients suffering from, and the number treated in hospital :—

Disease.	All Ages	Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 & up.	Rem. Hos.
Scarlet Fever,	3	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	3
Diphtheria,	8	..	1	3	3	1	..	..	8
Erysipelas	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1
Puerperal Fever,	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Puerperal Pyrexia,	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum,	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chickenpox,	16	..	2	10	..	2	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia,	8	..	..	..	1	4	3	..	2
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia,	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis,	7	..	..	1	3	1	1	1	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis,	4	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals,	54	3	4	18	12	10	6	1	19

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Area of Burgh, .. ..	..	..	..	2113·8 Acres
Gross Valuation, .. ..	..	..	..	£133,000.
Rateable Value, .. ..	..	..	..	£99,000.
Population, .. ..	..	..	..	8,269
Mileage of Streets and Roads :—				

				<i>Miles.</i>
Class 1, .. ..	..	..	..	2·16
Class 2, .. ..	..	..	..	·94
Class 3, and other roads, .. ..	..	..	..	7·768
Private Streets, .. ..	..	..	..	·90
Public Lanes and Walks, .. ..	..	..	..	4·459
Total, .. ..	..	..	..	16·227

PUBLIC PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

The area of land set aside for Public Parks, Recreation Grounds and Playing Fields extends to 1280·429 acres, and is made up as follows :—

	<i>Acres.</i>
The Links,	134·86
Cockshaugh Park,	5·353
Kinburn Park,	6·682
Bassaguard (children),	1·0
Bruce Embankment,	5·4
Woodburn (children),	2·834
East Bents,	2·0
*East and West Sands,	942·2
	<hr/>
	1280·429

*Above high water mark.

There are 4 Golf Courses, 9 Tennis Courts, 5 Putting Greens and 3 Bathing Stations, in addition, there are 18 Bathing Coaches in use during the season, and there is also a privately-owned Bathing Pool for ladies, and sea-water baths for both sexes.